



## READING INFORMATION

At school, we use a variety of strategies to teach your child to read:

- They receive a daily English (Read, Write, Inc) lesson every day, which focuses equally on reading and writing. It specifically teaches the children to de-code words (sound out) and to memorise 'tricky' words.
- Later in the year, children take part in guided reading sessions, where they have adult support to read a book which is at a challenging level for them. Your child will read the next level up in school, however at home they should find the books significantly easier in order to build confidence, fluency, expression, comprehension and enjoyment.

At every opportunity, we make sure that they do not simply concentrate on the de-coding of words, but also teach the children to understand and interpret the text they are reading.

## HOW TO HELP AT HOME

Your input at home is fundamental to your child's success as a reader.

- The regular practice that your child needs to become a confident and fluent reader is up to you! You need to hear them read for about 10 – 15 minutes daily. You will find this most effective if you find a quiet comfortable place to do this.
- The children will be given a selection of books every week. We feel that it is really important to become really familiar with the books they take home. They will probably spend the first attempt de-coding (sounding out) the words and looking at the pictures for clues. As they read the book through a second or third time, they will be remembering some of the words, perhaps starting to use expression in their voices (instead of sounding like robots!) and will be keen to have discussions about the story. Please do not be tempted to rush your child through the reading books, this will not help them to become competent readers and it won't necessarily help them get to the next level of reading books.
- During your reading sessions, make sure that you give your child lots of opportunities to describe what is happening in the pictures, to talk about what is happening in the story and to link this to their own experiences if possible. Make sure you ask your child questions about the story/book; to ensure that they understand what they are reading. This is just as important as reading the words.
- Even once your child is able to read for themselves, it is crucial that you are also still regularly reading to, and with, them. Children who have a broad knowledge of stories make great readers and writers themselves.

